THE

CASE

Of the Royal

LUSTRING COMPANY.

THE *Royal Luſtring Company* have ſet up in *England* a Manufacture, by making of Luſtrings and Alamodes; which before were made at *Lyons* (in *France*) only: And this Kingdom was ſupplied from thence, at the Expence of above Two hundred thouſand Pounds a Year: In which Manufacture the ſaid Company imploy great Numbers of Poor; And have, by great Expence and Induſtry, brought the ſaid Manufacture at leaſt to equal (if not exceed) that of *France*; to the Honour and common Profit of this Kingdom, and thereby ſave alſo the Exhauſting ſo much Money out of the Treaſure of this Nation.

The Company have been encourag'd in the ſaid Manufacture by ſeveral Acts of Parliament, and particularly by an Act made in the 8th and 9th Years of the Reign of the late King *William* the Third, entituled, *An Act for the further Encouragement of the Manufacture of Luſtrings and Alamodes, within this Realm; and for the better Preventing the Importation of the ſame.* And alſo by an Act made in the 9th and 10th Years of the Reign of our ſaid late Soveraign, entituled, *An Act for the better Encouragement of the* Royal Luſtring Company, *and the more effectual Preventing the fraudulent Importation of Luſtrings and Alamodes.* By which Acts *French* Luſtrings and Alamodes ſeized and forfeited, were to be exported, and not worn in *England.*

But by an Act made in the 3d and 4th Years of her preſent Majeſty, entituled, *An Act for Prohibiting all Trade and Commerce with* France, it is preſumed the ſaid two Acts are at an end; (for that about thirty Pieces of *French* Luſtrings, ſeized and forfeited by the ſaid Act of Prohibition were lately ſold at the Cuſtom-houſe, to be uſed in *England.)*

And that the ſaid Act of Prohibition (deſigned more ſtrictly to prevent the Importation of *French* Manufactures, and to encourage the Manufactures of this Kingdom) allowing *French* Manufactures to be ſold and worn in *England*, ſuperſedes the ſaid ſeveral Acts made for the Encouragement of the ſaid Manufacture.

The allowing *French* Silks to be ſold and uſed in *England*, will revive the Smugling Trade, very injurious to the Crown, give Opportunity of exporting Wool, Lead, Coin, and Criminals, *&c.* to *France*; as they uſed to do, in the ſame Veſſels and Runners they imported their Silks.

One Piece of *French* Silk, ſold at the Cuſtom-houſe, give an Opportunity to ſell a Hundred other Pieces; for every Piece, if diſcovered, will be ſaid to be the Silk ſeized and ſold at the Cuſtom-houſe.

Calais, during the late Smugling Trade, kept ſeventeen Runners or Veſſels; and other Sea-port Towns, kept ſome more, ſome leſs; as was proved before the Honourable Houſe of Commons in 1698. And though it was very difficult to diſcover a Smugler, yet ſeven and forty were convicted by the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, or compounded for the Importation of *French* Silks and Lace. And nine and thirty were ordered by the Honourable the Houſe of Commons to be proſecuted for the like Offence, in the ſaid Year 1698. For, by Cheating the Queen of her Cuſtoms and other Profits, if two Veſſels in three eſcaped undiſcovered, the Trade was ſo profitable, that it made the Smuglers very numerous, and will do ſo again, if *French* Manufactures are allowed to be ſold and worn in *England.*

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The Royal
Luftring Company's
CASE.